

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully solicited.

Claims 77, 107, 129, 135, 136, 138, 139, 142, and 157 are pending, with all being independent.

Applicants gratefully wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a personal interview between Applicants' representative and the Examiner, which was conducted on April 17, 2006. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding Official Action.

In more detail, the Official Action objected to the November 14, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement on the grounds that there are no English-language Abstracts, copies of the foreign documents, or concise statements of relevance. As discussed at the interview, Applicants respectfully traverse this objection because both English-language Abstracts and copies of the foreign documents were filed together with the Information Disclosure Statement and are present in the Image File Wrapper system of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, favorable consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, and return of the Form PTO-1449 therefrom are earnestly solicited.

Also, the Official Action (1) stated that the subject application's claims are allowable pending decision on interference proceedings with U.S. Patent Nos. 6,107,213, 6,194,245, 6,326,280, and 6,426,274, and (2) directed Applicants' attention to 37 C.F.R. § 41.202.

As to (1), as discussed at the interview, Applicants wish to advise the Examiner of a material change in circumstances; namely that the patents' assignee, Sony, has now disclaimed several of its claims from which the subject application's claims were copied. In particular:

- (a) the subject application's Claims 77 and 107 were copied from 6,107,213 Claim 20; however, the patent claim has been disclaimed by Sony (Official Gazette, Vol. 1304, No. 3 (March 21, 2006));
- (b) the subject application's Claim 142 was copied from 6,326,280 Claim 4; however, the patent claim has been disclaimed by Sony (Official Gazette, Vol. 1304, No. 3 (March 21, 2006)); and
- (c) the subject application's Claim 157 was copied from 6,426,274 Claim 16; however, the patent claim has been disclaimed by Sony as shown by the July 20, 2005 Disclaimer filed with respect to the patent claim in the 6,426,274 reissue application, Application No. 11/186,014 (which reissue application also purports to amend that claim).

As discussed at the interview, in view of the disclaimer there can be no interference involving the disclaimed Sony claims since those claims no longer exist.

As to (2), Applicants understand that the Examiner is in agreement that the reference to 37 C.F.R. § 41.202 does not constitute a requirement that Applicants file a Request for Interference at this time, as a result of which the instant response is earnestly submitted to be complete. In any event, Applicants respectfully believe that any such

requirement should be deferred until after the Office considers the effect of Sony's disclaimers, which Applicants submit may render unnecessary any interferences.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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